

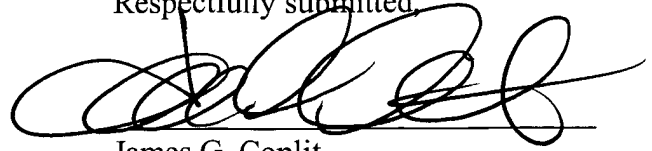
REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 3, 2005 has been carefully considered. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 14-17 and 19 because of certain informalities which have been addressed in the amendment. The Examiner also rejected claim 14 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim, and such claim has been amended to so further limit the subject matter. Claims 1-11, 13-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caputi (U.S. Patent No. 5,980,260) in view of Numoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,380,233) and Ogawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,186,515).

Applicant submits that amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references cited by the Examiner taken alone or in combination. None of these references teach or suggest the unique combination as taught by the claims, as amended. Independent claims 15 and 19 have similarly been amended so as to include the same limitations provided in claim 1 (amended) and therefore patentably distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that the dependent claims patentably distinguish over the references of record for the same reason as claims 1, 15 and 19 (amended), and are therefore also in condition for immediate allowance.

In light of the amendments, applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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